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Ernest Hemingway gained literary fame by writing in a distinct, recognizable style; his collection of short stories, *In Our Time* is no exception to this pattern. His particular literary signature often appears to be a reflection of his tumultuous life. Over the course of twenty years Hemingway was married four times, with all but one of his marriages ending as a result of infidelity (McLain, “Hemingway’s Wives”). As evidenced in many of the short stories from *In Our Time*, Hemingway’s works are heavily influenced by his personal struggles and relationships.

One of the stories from that collection that provides insight on Hemingway’s image of the romantic relationship between men and women is “The End of Something”. To begin, Nick and Marjorie are simply two lovers enjoying each other’s company on a moonlit evening. However, the outing takes a serious turn as Nick confesses that being with Marjorie “‘isn't fun any more…’” (Hemingway) and that he wishes to break off their love affair. Marjorie’s reaction is a mixture of terse composure and obvious heartbreak, as she leaves Nick without much protest. As seen with Hemingway’s multiple failed marriages and infidelities, his opinion on the lasting nature of a monogamous relationship does not seem very high. Nick’s willingness to abandon his relationship because it no longer amuses him is an eerie similarity to many of Hemingway’s personal issues within his own marriages: when he was tired of one woman, he simply moved on to the next. This is not to say that he was completely devoid of emotion toward his wives, nor was Nick for Marjorie. As Nick did have a difficult time recounting his decision following the break-up, it also stands to reason that Hemingway felt a level of connection and love for his ex-wives even after each separation.

Another notable similarity between Hemingway’s real life and this particular story is Marjorie’s reaction in comparison to the actions of Hemingway’s wife at the time of this collection’s publication. Hadley Richardson was married to Hemingway from 1921-1927, and during this time she endured the knowledge that her husband was unfaithful to her. However, Richardson’s reaction was not to make a scene or cause a scandal, but rather to reluctantly give up her husband for the knowledge that he’d be happier in the arms of another. Similar to Marjorie, Richardson quietly took her leave without any fuss. Both this story and outside information about Hemingway’s romantic life point to obvious parallels between Hemingway and his character.

It is often said that authors write what they know. If this is the case, it comes as no surprise that so many of Hemingway’s novels and stories deal with such complicated romantic relationships. Whether it dealing with a love lost or the seemingly disconnected and impersonal relationship between a husband and wife, none of the stories read from *In Our Time* paint the rosy, idealistic picture of love that so many come to expect. Almost crossing into the realm of cynicism, Hemingway’s relationships, both in his own life and in his writings, are enough to make any reader reconsider falling in love.

Works Cited

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McLain, Paula. "Hemingway's Wives." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 29 May 2012. Web. 24 Sept. 2013.